

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. In a computer system having a user interface, including a display and a selection device, a method of displaying multiple contexts of electronic documents comprising the steps of:

displaying a first document context which is the subject of a single navigational focus; and

displaying a second document context simultaneously with the first document context while maintaining the single navigational focus.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second document contexts are non-contiguous parts of the same electronic document.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second document contexts are parts of different electronic documents.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving a page pinning signal input by a user, the step of displaying the second document context occurring in response to the page pinning signal.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of displaying the second document context comprises the step of displaying a document comprising at least one command in response to a command document display signal input by a user, the method further comprising the step of permitting a user to select a command from the at least one command in said document.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the command document display signal automatically initiates a page pinning signal that results in the display of the first document context as a pinned page overlayed on the document comprising at least one command.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the command display signal automatically initiates a page pinning signal that results in the display of the document comprising at least one command as a pinned page overlayed on the first document.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of displaying a link in the first document context, the link specifying the second document context, and in response to user selection of the link, automatically pinning the first document context and navigating to the second document context and thereby shifting the navigational focus to the second document context.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of displaying the second document context comprises the step of displaying a page comprising at least an index and wherein the index is provided with at least one link, the method further comprising the step of pinning the page comprising at least an index and displaying context corresponding to a link selected by the user from the index.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of displaying the second document context further comprises the steps of:

receiving a page pinning signal from a user

in response to the page pinning signal, displaying a viewport to the first document context as a pinned page overlayed on the second document context.

11. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable components for performing a method of displaying multiple contexts of electronic documents, the method comprising the steps of:

displaying a first document context which is the subject of a single navigational focus; and

displaying a second document context simultaneously with the first document context while maintaining the single navigational focus.

12. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the first and second document contexts are non-contiguous parts of the same electronic document.

13. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the first and second document contexts are parts of different electronic documents.

14. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, further comprising the step of receiving a page pinning signal input by a user, the step of displaying the second document context occurring in response to the page pinning signal.

15. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the step of displaying the second document context comprises the step of displaying a document comprising at least one command in response to a command document display signal input by a user, the method further comprising the step of permitting a user to select a command from the at least one command in the document.

16. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the command document display signal automatically initiates a page pinning signal that results in the display of the first document context as a pinned page overlayed on the document comprising at least one command.

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17. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the command display signal automatically initiates a page pinning signal that results in the display of the document with at least one command as a pinned page overlayed on the first document.

18. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, further comprising the step of displaying a link in the first document context, the link specifying the second document context, and in response to user selection of the link, automatically pinning the first document context and navigating to the second document context and thereby shifting the navigational focus to the second document context.

19. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the step of displaying the second document context comprises the step of displaying a page with an index, wherein the index is provided with at least one link, the method further comprising the step of pinning the page comprising an index and displaying context corresponding to a link selected by the user from the index page. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the step of displaying the second document context further comprises the steps of:

receiving a page pinning signal from a user

in response to the page pinning signal, displaying a viewport to the first document context as a pinned page overlayed on the second document context.

20. In a computer system having a user interface, including a display and a selection device, a method of displaying multiple contexts of electronic documents comprising the steps of:

displaying a first document context which is the subject of a single navigational focus;

navigating the first document to a first document context within the navigational focus;

receiving a page pinning signal;

in response to the page pinning signal, displaying at least a portion of the first context as a pinned page overlayed on the first context while maintaining the single navigational focus;

displaying a second document context within the single navigational focus; and

navigating the second document while the pinned page remains displayed.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the first and second document contexts are non-contiguous parts of the same electronic document.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein the first and second document contexts are parts of different electronic documents.

23. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of receiving a page pinning signal further comprises receiving an input by a user selection device.

24. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of displaying the second document context comprises the step of displaying a document comprising at least one command in response to a command document display signal input by a user.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the page pinning signal is initiated automatically in response to the input of the command document display signal.

26. The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of selecting a command from the document comprising at least one command.

27. The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of selecting a region in the first document context in which a command is to be performed.

28. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of displaying the second document context comprises the step of displaying a page comprising at least an index for permitting a user to navigate other documents.

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29. The method of claim 28, wherein the index is provided with at least one link, the method further comprising the step of pinning the page with the index and displaying the first document context corresponding to a link selected by the user from the index.

30. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of displaying the second document comprises the step of displaying an index having at least one link and a corresponding context associated with each of the at least one link.

31. The method of claim 30, further comprising the step of displaying a context in response to a user selecting a corresponding link, the context being a context in a third document.

32. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of displaying the second document comprises the step of displaying an index having at least one link and a corresponding context associated with a selected one of the at least one link.

33. The method of claim 32, further comprising the step of displaying a context in response to a user selecting a corresponding link, the context being a context in a third document.

displaying two of the document contexts simultaneously without changing the unified navigational history.